An Essay
on the
Decline of Allopathy
Respectfully Submitted
To the Faculty of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
Of Pennsylvania
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Allopathia has seen the handwriting on the wall, but there is no mystery in the words – her own wise men can interpret them & she knows that she has been found wanting in the scales of Justice & Science, & that her kingdom is passing from her –

Too long have the vessels of the "Temple" been defiled by her foul potions, & the "golden bowl & pitcher at the fountain" have too often been broken by her destroying hand. She has brought the infirmities of age upon robust youth, & made "the keepers of the house tremble, the strong men bow themselves, & the grinders to cease & become few" before their time.

It is indeed full time that her reign were finished, and we believe that Heaven has numbered her days, & given her kingdom to the more genial sway of truth.

This age of wonders presents no spectacle more astonishing than the decline of a system, founded and sustained for centuries, by the faithful effort of the most cultivated intellect.

Inspired by the noble desire of alleviating the pains & sufferings of humanity, or incited by thirst for wealth & fame, the most talented men of our own, & of many past generations, have devoted their whole lives to devise, & invent things

study, in endeavoring to establish, & as far as possible perfect a system of combatting & curing disease;

The more earnest & honest of these efforts have resulted in magnificent discoveries in Physiology, Chemistry, Anatomy & other collateral branches; but the end principally sought — the perfection of the Practice — has not been attained; and though aided by these most brilliant discoveries, in the subservient branches, though indeed the whole enlightened world has been repeatedly astonished at the rapidity of their progress, the friends of this system have scarce advanced it a single step for a century past.

But when we reflect that

that this vast amount of study designed to perfect a curative system, has been pursued without a knowledge of the great Law of Cure, & with a spirit of unyielding opposition to everything not coudonant with its own speculative theories, we are less surprised that this, most studied of all subjects should have remained stationary, amid the amazing advancement of every other Science.

In order to explain why, the progress of so noble a Science as that of Medicine has been checked by an obstinate rejection of truth on the part of its teachers, let us revert to its early history.

We need go back but a few

centuries, to find that it consisted mainly of a mass of traditions, & notions, as absurd, & ridiculous as they were pernicious.

In those days the populous mind groping in darkest paths of ignorance, & superstition, was easily duped, & the Physician, professing to understand the secret springs of life, & to have power over disease, was regarded with a respect nearly amounting to awe.

This sentiment of reverence for supposed knowledge, so gratifying to personal vanity originated, & has since fostered, that professional pride and pedantism which has so sadly impeded the progress of Medical science; our ancient

doctor, so profoundly respected, must necessarily be called upon to answer many hard questions which even ignorant minds could propose, & possessing so limited a fund of real knowledge, must needs draw largely upon his fancy; hence when some more sincere, and successful truthseeker, attempted to expose these fallacies, he encountered the bitterest persecution that wounded vanity, coupled with influence could engender. At a subsequent period when knowledge began to be diffused, - when medical schools were formed, & assumed the guardianship of the science, their preceptors, actuated by the same deplorable spirit,

kept their reputations greatly
in advance of their attainments;
& opposed with a violence increased
in proportion to their enlarged
influence, every discovery not in
accordance with their preconceived
opinions.

Thus was aroused against
the immortal Harvey, a persecution
almost as severe as any which has
been exercised by religious bigotry:
& thus a storm of almost over-
whelming abuse, was the penalty
for introducing so great a blessing
as that of vaccination: in our
own days also the glorious
discovery of the great Hahnemann
met with a similar bitter, but
vain opposition.

In fact throughout the
whole history of medical instruction,

as conducted by Allopathic schools.
No feature stands more prominent
than this fondness for promulgating
theories, & "general principles," & stubbornly
adhering to them even when
the light of progressing science
shows them to be incorrect.

For instance, the idea formerly
prevailed, that during a paroxysm
of fever, "the system makes much
more blood than it did just
previous to the attack," & that
this abnormal quantity of blood
caused the full bounding pulse
& other febrile symptoms, and
showed the necessity of blood-
-letting; but more enlightened
developements of Physiology, show
this idea to have been fallacious,
& that the true cause of the
bounding pulse &c, lies in the

fact, that the capillaries, which conduct the blood from the arteries to the veins are obstructed; thereby causing a deficiency in the veins, corresponding to the surplus in the arteries: now, although the theory upon which this pernicious practice was based has fallen to the ground, there is no remedy in allopathic practice, more frequently resorted to than blood letting; & so persistent is their obstinacy in its use, that the venerable Professor Paine of the New York University devots two entire lectures to the object of showing its superiority over all other antiphlogistics. — a notable feature in these lectures as we heard them in 1852, was the fact that they consisted mainly of answers, or

attempts to answer the many objections to so injurious a remedy—.

In the same spirit also Professor Meigs of this City declares; that whatever amount of experimental testimony may be adduced, in favor of using Chloroform in parturition, he will maintain the ground he has taken against it.

Such is the spirit, that has rendered nugatory the efforts of generations of minds to establish a successful method of curing disease; most emphatically, has it been a "pursuit of knowledge under difficulty"- the insurmountable difficulty of a pride of intellect which arrogantly proclaims its own finite fancies as the principles of Eternal Truth itself.-

This obstinate adherence to a

system based upon suppositious principles, this wilful shutting of the eyes against the revelations of true science, must be assigned as the primary cause of the evident decline of Allopathy; since by this jealous guardianship of its principles, its success, or rather, want of success, has alone been most effectually covered, & unfortunately for it the advancement of popular education began to discover years ago, that its pretensions were unfounded, & its effect often more dreadful than the disease it attempted to cure. Then people began to forsake its practitioners, & inquire for something which would cure. As natural response to this call, numerous forms of Quackery sprang up, & these, the legitimate offspring

of Allopathy - for many years increased & flourished, in proportion as the advancing enlightenment of the public mind discovered & deserted the faults of their declining parent.

But the vast amount of patronage which Quackery is now enjoying is by no means the full measure of the disapprobation which has fallen upon Allopathy, for in our own day has appeared the great light of Medical Science - the true Law of cure, & in the face of a most bitter opposition, Homoeopathy has taken a firm hold upon the public confidence, & secured a wide & rapidly increasing support.

That it is destined to advance surely & steadily until every

false system of medicine shall be banished from the Earth, no one can doubt who believes, that the world is progressing, & that truth will ultimately supersede all error.

Allopathy will endure yet for a while, for it still has a rest for operation, in the nations who are yet uneducated, & still succeeds in some measure in commending itself to more enlightened minds, by hiding its own antiquity under the advances of the collateral branch & claiming them as a part of itself.

But when its foothold is once lost, it is never regained; & no deceits, or specious arguments can induce those who have once left, & abandoned its evils, to favor it again with their confidence.

Weakened by the fearless assaults
of the bold & honest champions
of the Truth, & crushed by the
contempt of reason, this ancient
fabric of errors is even now tottering
to its fall, " & when it falls it will
fall like Lucifer, never to rise
again -